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STATUS REPORT FOR FUMIGANT PESTICIDES

April, 2001

I. FUMIGANT DATA REQUIREMENTS

The development of the regulatory programs for 1,3-dichloropropene, methyl bromide, metam sodium, and other fumigant pesticides has documented the necessity of obtaining specific data characterizing the atmospheric partitioning, dispersion, and fate in order to effectively regulate fumigants. Staff are currently developing a data call-in for existing and anticipated new fumigants using existing authority for the registration and the reevaluation process. This should provide for the quickest means of registering and regulating new fumigant replacements for methyl bromide while protecting workers, the public, and the environment

II. METHYL BROMIDE

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- Analysis of recent air monitoring data. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has received air monitoring data for methyl bromide and 1,3-dichloropropene from the Air Resources Board. The monitoring data characterize air concentrations that occurred in an area of Kern County from July 10, 2000 through September 1, 2000, and an area of Monterey County from September 11, 2000 through November 3, 2000. Staff have developed a preliminary analysis of the air monitoring data (Attachment 1). A more thorough analysis and possible mitigation strategies will be completed in May 2001.
- The methyl bromide exposure assessment revisions incorporating the National Academy of Science peer review comments is anticipated to be completed in May 2001. The risk characterization document for methyl bromide will be amended to include the revised exposure assessment document.

2. Risk Management Status

- The new soil fumigation regulations are being implemented.
- Legal Actions:

The Environment Defense Center et al have filed a lawsuit in response to the new soil fumigation regulations (San Francisco).

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The Ventura County Agricultural Association et al have filed a lawsuit in response to the new soil fumigation regulations (Sacramento).

III. 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- DPR staff are reviewing data submitted after the completion of the 1997 risk assessment. An updated risk assessment will be completed by the end of 2001.
- Review 1,3-dichloropropene tree and vine buffer zones. Staff are currently completing work on a plan to modify the acute buffer zones for tree and vine applications of 1,3-dichloropropene. These recommended permit conditions are anticipated to be completed in May 2001.

2. Risk Management Status

- Concurrent registration of Inline, a 1,3-dichloropropene and chloropicrin product for drip systems. Federal registration is still pending. Registration reviews have been completed at two of the eight evaluation stations. U.S. EPA review has not yet been completed. The approved federal label will need to be reviewed.
- Potential revisions to 1,3-dichloropropene use restrictions. Based on the review of the risk assessment as well as an analysis of the model and the input parameters used to develop the annual use restrictions, DPR will consider any modifications to the use restrictions that may be warranted.

IV. CHLOROPICRIN

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- A notice to registrants of chloropicrin products was issued on March 16, 2001, notifying them that the risk assessment process has started. This formally initiates work on the risk characterization document and is followed by a series of notices informing registrants of the progress of chloropicrin in the risk assessment process.

2. Risk Management Status

- The Southern Deputy Commissioners have developed new chloropicrin permit conditions. DPR has reviewed the proposal and included comments in an agricultural commissioner's letter which is scheduled for distribution in April 2001.

V. **MITC GENERATING COMPOUNDS**

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- DPR's toxic air contaminant risk assessment document for MITC has completed the review process. Finalization of the assessment and risk management actions have been delayed pending action on the lawsuit filed by the Metam Sodium Task Force.

2. Risk Management Status

- A regulation package placing metam potassium and other MITC generating chemicals on the restricted materials list should be final in May 2001. These materials are currently listed by emergency regulation which will be extended.
- The Metam Sodium Task Force has filed a lawsuit to restrain DPR from listing metam sodium, MITC, or other metam-sodium breakdown products as toxic air contaminants.

VI. **POTENTIAL NEW FUMIGANTS**

- DPR is currently (April 2001) waiting to receive applications for California for products containing methyl iodide and propargyl bromide. Staff have discussed registration requirements and study methodologies with consultants and have provided published studies and written protocols for guidance.
- DPR continues to fund and participate in research into alternatives. In addition to USDA, CDFA and other funders, DPR has provided funding to various groups for research into reduced-risk alternatives to methyl bromide and other fumigants currently used in California. Several of these efforts are currently in progress (Attachment 2). DPR has also assisted the Methyl Bromide Alternatives

Organization in their efforts to promote and publicize viable alternatives to methyl bromide.